

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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R 220517Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4895

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MP KN

SUBJECT: KOREA AT 29TH UNGA: MAURITIUS

REF: (A) USUN 5230 NOTAL; (B) PORT LOUIS 0827 NOTAL

1. ASSUMING DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO USUN'S SUGGESTION REF A AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY LAST CHAT WITH PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, I TODAY PRESSED RAM TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED AGAINST HOSTILE KOREAN RESOLUTION, USING USUN'S TALKING POINTS. RAMGOOLAM SAID HE WOULD "SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE". HE ASKED ME TO GIVE HIM THOSE TALKING POINTS IN WRITING SO THAT HE COULD SEND THEM TO RAMPHUL IN NEW YORK. I PROMPTLY DID SO.

2. RAMGOOLAM THEN REFERRED TO CURRENT VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR CHANG IL MAN WHO PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO GOVERNOR GENERAL NOVEMBER 11 AND IS DUE TO RETURN TO DAR ES SALAAM TODAY. RAM DESCRIBED HIM AS VERY STIFF HUMORLESS CHARACTER WHO HAD TRIED TO PERSUADE RAMGOOLAM THAT PRESIDENT PARK'S WIFE WAS ACTUALLY SHOT BY ONE OF PARK'S BODYGUARDS AND THAT MAN ROKG ALLEGES TO BE ASSASSIN COULD NOT HAVE BEEN NORTH KOREAN AGENT BECAUSE VERY EFFICIENT ROK SECURITY SERVICES WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED

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SUCH PERSON TO ENTER SOUTH KOREA. I REPLIED THAT CHANG IL MAN'S

STORY SOUNDED UTTERLY FANTASTIC TO ME BECAUSE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAD WITNESSED SHOOTING, ASSASSIN HAD BEEN CLEARLY IDENTIFIED, AND I UNDERSTOOD JAPANESE POLICE HAD AMPLY VERIFIED ACTUAL ASSASSIN'S CONNECTIONS WITH NORTH KOREAN ORGANIZATION IN JAPAN. RAMGOOLAM NODDED AND SAID ONE OF MAIN REASONS HE IS SUPPORTING SOUTH KOREA IN UN IS BECAUSE OF HIS SYMPATHY OVER MRS. PARK'S ASSASSINATION.

3. RAMGOOLAM THEN INFORMED ME THAT CHANG IL MAN HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE (MAN) PLANS TO TRANSFER HIS EMBASSY FROM DAR TO MAURITIUS. RAM REMARKED HE FOUND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE BUT PERHAPS MAN WAS SERIOUS. (RAM'S IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF NORTH KOREANS WANTED TO DO SO HE WOULD HAVE NO BASIS TO OBJECT.)

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF FACT THAT SOVIETS AND CHICOMS ARE ALREADY DIGGING IN HERE IN LARGE AND GROWING NUMBERS, I GUESS A FEW ADDITIONAL STONE-FACED PYONGYANG ROBOTS WILL NOT MAKE TOO MUCH DIFFERENCE. BUT IF ROKG IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT PROTECTING ITS INTERESTS HERE, IT IS ABOUT TIME THEY TRY TO STATION OR AT LEAST ACCREDIT AN EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATIVE HERE. RAMGOOLAM WOULD NO DOUBT WELCOME SOME BALANCING DIPLOMATIC EFFORT BY SEOUL. MANHARD

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